

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A postage metering system, comprising:
 - a computer;
 - an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;
 - a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an unsecure print head and a secure print head the secure print head is mounted at a particular angle to produce a print density that is detected by spectral analysis; and
 - a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication unit and the printer, the control system for:
 - executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication unit to generate postal data to be included in a postal indicium, the postal indicium including non-authorization data;
 - initiating a print request to print the postal indicium; and
 - controlling the unsecure print head to print the non-authorization data and the secure print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage metering system.
2. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:
 - the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and
 - the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
3. (Previously Presented) The postage metering system of claim 2, wherein:
 - the control system is further for:
 - preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the secure print head.

4. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 3, wherein:
the control system is further for:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the authentication unit; and

preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

5. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:

the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head; and

the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.

6. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 5, wherein:

the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.

7. (Previously Presented) The postage metering system of claim 6, wherein:

the control system is further for:

preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the secure print head.

8. (Previously Presented) The postage metering system of claim 7, wherein:

the control system is further for:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the authentication unit; and

preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

9. (Previously Amended) A method of operating a postage metering system to print a postal indicium having non-authorization data, the method comprising the step(s) of:

executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to generate postal data to be included in the postal indicium;

transmitting a print request to a printer to print the postal indicium, the printer including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;

printing the non-authorization data with the unsecure print head; and

printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print head, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage metering system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:

the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and

the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step(s) of:

preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the secure print head.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step(s) of:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the authentication unit; and

preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:

the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head; and

the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:

the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated
by the secure print head.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the
authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

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24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

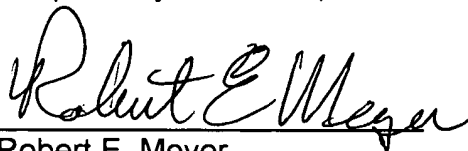
29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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